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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 3964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJC: MBFR: DATA STUDIES: THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASE
OF NATO

TANK DATA

REF: A) STATE 130765; B) USNATO 3263 DTG 131540Z JUN 75; C)

USNATO 3694 DTG 111010Z JUL 75

1. THERE FOLLOWS A WG DRAFT ON "THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASE
OF NATO TANK DATA ON NATO FORCES," AC/276-WP(75)14, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE SPC MANDATE OF JUNE 12 (REFS A AND B).

2. THIS STUDY REFERS TO THE GENERAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF
RELEASING FORCE DATA AS OUTLINED IN THE ASSOCIATED WG STUDY
ON THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASING NATO MANPOWER
DATA (SEPTEL).

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3. THE STUDY CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS LITTLE OR NO SECURITY RISK
INVOLVED IN RELEASING EITHER GROSSED UP NATO TANK FIGURES OR
NATIONAL TANK FIGURES:

A) FOR COMBAT FORMATIONS DOWN TO THE DIVISION LEVEL;

B) FOR SMALLER COMBAT FORMATIONS NOT PART OF A DIVISION;

C) RELATED TO TRAINING;

D) RELATED TO DUAL-BASED UNITS (PENDING THE US RESPONSE TO THE QUERY IN REF C).

4. THE STUDY ALSO FINDS THAT SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY TO PROVIDE RESERVE TANK FIGURES, THEY SHOULD BE RELEASED ONLY AS A NATO AGGREGATE SINCE SUCH DATA PROVIDES AN INDICATION OF THE STATE OF READINESS OF COMPONENT NATIONAL UNITS.

5. ANNEX I TO THE STUDY COMPARES AGREED NATO TANK FIGURES WITH 1) THAT PRESENTED TO THE EAST (POLADS(75)13), 2) THAT AVAILABLE IN UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES, 3) IISS AND 4) SIPRI. AS IN THE CASE OF THE SIMILAR ANNEX IN THE ASSOCIATED PAPER ON MANPOWER DATA (SEPTTEL, THE MBFR STAFF GROUP HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INPUTS ON TANK FIGURES GIVEN IN UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES WHERE AVAILABLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST 1) RESPONSE TO REF C, 2) INPUT ON US TANK FIGURES THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL USG REPORT, AND 3) COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING DRAFT STUDY:

7. BEGIN TEXT

WORKING PAPER
AC/276-WP(75)14

MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS WORKING GROUP

THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASE OF NATO
TANK DATA ON NATO FORCES

DRAFT REPORT BY THE MBFR WORKING GROUP
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BACKGROUND
THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT THEIR MEETING ON 12TH JUNE, 1975, INVITED THE MBFR WORKING GROUP(1) TO REVIEW, USING EXISTING NATO AGREED DATA AS ITS BASIS, THE POSSIBLE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF TANK DATA, BEGINNING WITH NATO RELEASE OF NATO DATA. AS PART OF ITS REVIEW THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD REVIEW WHAT DATA IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE WARSAW PACT, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL SOURCES. THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED THAT DATA PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES (IISS) AND BY THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AVAILABLE TO THE WP FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY.

2. THE ABOVE MANDATE, LIMITED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO CONSIDERATION OF DATA (FIGURES) ON ALLIED MAIN BATTLE TANKS (MBTS) IN THE NGA, REQUIRES THE WORKING GROUP TO JUDGE WHAT DETAILED DATA MAY BE RELEASED, SHOULD SUCH A RELEASE BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT ALLIED STATEMENTS OF ITS OWN GROSS TANK FIGURES IN THE CONTEXT OF A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF DATA WITH THE EAST.

3. A COMPLEMENTARY PAPER(2) SETS OUT THE INFORMATION ON ALLIED MANPOWER AVAILABLE TO THE WARSAW PACT FROM UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING WARSAW PACT INTELLIGENCE SOURCES. IT FURTHER EXAMINES GENERAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASING FORCE DATA IN THE NARROW SENSE OF THE EXAMINATION, AS WELL AS IN THE BROADER SENSE. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT REPEATED IN THIS PAPER, BUT HAS TO BE BORNE IN

FOOTNOTES: (1) AC/119-R(75)61
(2) AC/276-WP(75)12 (REVISED)

MIND IN CONSIDERING THE RELEASE OF TANK DATA. SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO CONSIDERATION OF SECURITY IMPLICATIONS IN THE WIDER SENSE, AND TO THE RECIPROCITY ISSUE (AC/276-WP(75)12(REVISED), PARAS 4 AND 11 RESPECTIVELY).

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UNCLASSIFIED DATA SOURCES

4. ANNEX I SHOWS THE INFORMATION ABOUT NATO'S GROSS AND NATIONAL TANK FIGURES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PAPERS, AS COMPARED WITH THE NATO AGREED CLASSIFIED FIGURES FOR THE SAME ELEMENTS, AND THOSE PUBLISHED BY THE IISS AND SIPRI.

5. IT WILL BE SEEN THAT, ALTHOUGH MANPOWER DATA(1) IS FAIRLY READILY AVAILABLE TO PACT INTELLIGENCE, PROBABLY IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, MOST ALLIED COUNTRIES DO NOT REVEAL TANK FIGURES IN ANY DETAIL. FOR MOST ALLIED COUNTRIES SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, IN RESPECT OF COMBAT UNITS DOWN TO DIVISION OR BRIGADE LEVEL; IT IS NOT SPECIFIED FOR UNITS BELOW THAT LEVEL. IISS AND SIPRI DOCUMENTS QUOTE THE BROAD ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL FORCES OF NATO IN THE NGA AND PROVIDE APPROXIMATE GROSS TOTALS OF MBTS BY NATIONS AND WITHIN THE CENTRAL REGION AS A WHOLE.

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CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING NATO'S SECURITY

6. MBTS SUPPLIED TO ALLIED FORCES NORMALLY FALL UNDER TWO MAIN HEADS:

(A) THOSE HELD WITHIN THE TO&E OF FRONTLINE COMBAT FORMATIONS, E.G. DIVISIONS, BRIGADES, ACR(2), RECONNAISSANCE FORMATIONS.

(B) THOSE FALLING IN THE SUPPORT ROLE, WHICH IN CONTEXT IS INTERPRETED TO INCLUDE THOSE USED FOR TRAINING, THOSE IN NORMAL MAINTENANCE STOCKS, THOSE HELD IN SPECIAL STORAGE FOR DUAL BASED FORCES AND THOSE HELD IN RESERVE AGAINST ATTRITION IN WAR.

FOOTNOTES:

(1) AC/276-WP(75)12(REVISED), PARAS 6 AND 7

(2) ARMoured CAVALRY REGIMENT. A US ARMY COMBAT FORMATION WITH REGIMENTAL SUPPORT TROOPS (HQ AND HELICOPTERS) AND THREE BATTALION-SIZE COMBAT SQUADRONS CONTAINING ARMoured CAVALRY, TANKS AND FIELD

ARTILLERY. WARTIME AUTHORISED STRENGTH: 3,422 MEN, 51 TANKS.

7. IN THE FIRST OF THESE CATEGORIES, THOSE ASSIGNED TO THE TO&E OF FRONTLINE COMBAT FORMATIONS, NO OBJECTIONS ON SECURITY CAN BE SEEN TO THE RELEASE OF TANK FIGURES DOWN TO DIVISION LEVEL, WHETHER FOR NATIONAL TANK TOTALS OR GROSSED UP TO PROVIDE A NATO FIGURE. THERE COULD HOWEVER BE OBJECTIONS TO THE RELEASE OF TANK FIGURES IN UNITS WHICH ARE SMALLER THAN DIVISIONS, EITHER IN LOWER FORMATIONS OR IN FORMATIONS AT CADRE STRENGTH; THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION COULD INDICATE TO AN ALERT INTELLIGENCE ADVERSARY THAT STATE OF READINESS OF THESE FORMATIONS AND WHERE SHORTAGES EXIST IN TANK COMBAT UNITS. ADDITIONALLY, THE CONSIDERATIONS

IN AC/276-WP(75)12(REVISED),
PARA 15 WILL HAVE TO BE OBSERVED. THERE WOULD
HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE NO SECURITY OBJECTIONS TO THE PROVISION OF
NATO OR NATIONAL GROSSED UP TANK FIGURES FOR THESE SMALLER
FORMATIONS.

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8. AS REGARDS THE SECOND CATEGORY OF FORCES, THOSE FALLING
UNDER THE SUPPORT ROLE AS DEFINED IN PARA 6 (B) ABOVE, THERE WOULD
BE NO ADVERSE EFFECT FOR NATO IN THE RELEASE OF:

(A) GROSSED UP NUMBER OF TANKS ALLOCATED FOR TRAINING,
WHETHER THOSE GROSSED UP FIGURES ARE RELEASED FOR
NATIONAL OR FOR ALLIED FORCES.

(B) THE NUMBER OF TANKS ASSOCIATED WITH DUAL-BASED UNITS.

9. RESERVE STOCKS HELD AGAINST ATTRITION IN WAR FALL INTO
A DIFFERENT CATEGORY. WHILE THE TWO PREVIOUS CATEGORIES CAN BE
ASSOCIATED WITH FORCES IN BEING IN PEACETIME, THE WAR RESERVES
ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO REPLACE LOSSES IN COMBAT. THE
REQUIREMENTS ARE CALCULATED IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND TO COVER
DIFFERENT PERIODS OF TIME. RELEASE OF SUCH FIGURES, IN DETAIL
FOR NATIONAL FORCES, WOULD PROVIDE THE EAST WITH A FAIRLY ACCURATE
PICTURE OF ASSESSED LOSS RATES IN WAR AND/OR OF THE DIFFERENT
PERIODS FOR WHICH THE ALLIES PROVIDE RESERVE TANKS. SOME ALLIED
NATIONS DO NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN WAR RESERVES AND MAINTENANCE
STOCKS, BUT PROVIDE A SINGLE FIGURE COVERING BOTH; THUS BOTH
WAR AND MAINTENANCE RESERVES FIGURES POSE SECURITY PROBLEMS.
RELEASE OF THAT INFORMATION COULD CAUSE
SERIOUS DAMAGE TO NATO INTERESTS AND COULD BE
EXPLOITED. THE WORKING GROUP RECOGNISE THAT THE PRESENT ALLIED
NEGOTIATING APPROACH DOES NOT ENVISAGE DISCUSSION OF RESERVE
TANKS. HOWEVER, SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY TO PROVIDE TANK
FIGURES FOR RESERVE HOLDINGS, THEY SHOULD BE SHOWN AS AN
AGGREGATE FOR NATO IN THE NGA AS A WHOLE AND NOT BROKEN DOWN INTO
NATIONAL COMPONENTS.

FINDINGS

10. THE WORKING GROUP FIND:

(A) SHOULD NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS GROSS
MBT FIGURE FOR THE NGA, IT MIGHT DO SO, WITHOUT PREJUDICE
TO ALLIED MILITARY SECURITY INTERESTS BY PROVIDING:

(1) TANK FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH COMBAT
FORMATIONS DOWN TO DIVISION LEVEL ON A NATIONAL
OR GROSSED UP BASIS.

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(2) NATO OR NATIONAL GROSSED UP TANK FIGURES RELATED TO SMALLER COMBAT FORMATIONS, WHICH DO NOT FORM PART OF DIVISIONS.

(3) NATIONAL OR NATO GROSSED UP TANK FIGURES RELATED TO TRAINING.

(4) TANK FIGURES RELATED TO DUAL BASED UNITS.

(B) SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY TO PROVIDE RESERVE TANK FIGURES TO THE EAST, THEY SHOULD BE RELEASED AS AN AGGREGATE FOR NATO IN THE NGA, NOT BROKEN INTO NATIONAL HOLDINGS.

11. IT IS STRESSED THAT THE FINDINGS AT PARA 10 ABOVE ARE TAKEN IN THE NARROW CONTEXT OF THE EXAMINATION DONE BY THE WORKING GROUP (SEE AC/276-WP(75)12(REVISED), PARA 4). THE BROADER ISSUES MENTIONED IN THAT PAPER WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERATION BEFORE DECISIONS WERE MADE TO RELEASE SPECIFIC LEVELS OF DATA.

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ANNEX I TO

AC/276-WP(75)14

NATIONAL AND NATO GROSS TANK FIGURES - NGA

COUNTRY NATO DATA

AC/276(SGDS)-N/30

	TO&E	RES/TRNG	PRE-POS	TOTAL
BE TANKS	409	177	-	586
CA TANKS	32	16	-	48
GE TANKS	2,816	634	-	3,450
FR TANKS	260	-	-	260
LUX TANKS	-	-	-	-
NL TANKS	689	250	-	939
UK TANKS	531	139	-	670
US TANKS	1,370	748	645	2,763

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TOTAL

TANKS	6,107	1,964	645	8,716
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FOOTNOTE:

(1) TOTAL NATIONAL FIGURE

(2) INCLUDING DUAL BASED (IISS/SIPRI EQUAL 750) AND "STRATEGIC RESERVE STOCK" (SIPRI)

(3) FIGURE " AT START OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS" (INCLUDING 325 FRENCH TANKS)

CHART CONTINUED

DATA PRESENTED DATA SOURCES "AVAILABLE" TO THE EAST

TO THE EAST	GOVERNMENT PAPERS	IISS	SIPRI
POLADS(75)13	(SEE ATTACHED LIST)	IN UNITS	RESERVE

-	458	446	300
-		32	30
-	3,520	3,560	2,950
-		325	325
-	-	-	-
-		885	450
-		900(1)	595
-		2,100(2)	2,100(2)
6,000		6,880(3)	6,000 5,000

ANNEX I TO

AC/276-WP(75)14

SOURCE DOCUMENTS AND NOTES

1. NATO: AC/276 (SGDS)-N/30

POLADS (75)13 - (FIGURES TABLED AT VIENNA)

2. UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL

BE - OFFICIAL LETTER (INPUT TO IISS) TO MIL ATT

LONDON - MAY 1975

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CA - DND PAPER ON DEFENCE 1972

GE - WHILE PAPER 1973/74

FR - DEFENCE WHITE PAPER 1973

LUX - N/A

NL - THE DEFENCE POLICY IN THE YEARS 1974-1983

UK - STATEMENT ON THE DEFENCE ESTIMATES 1975

US - UNCLASSIFIED ANNEX TO US EUCOM REPORT -

DECEMBER 1974. SECDEF PRESS RELEASE - MARCH 1975

3. OTHER SOURCES : IISS THE MILITARY BALANCE 1975.

SIPRI WORLD ARMAMENTS AND DISARMAMENTS

YEARBOOK 1974.

4. NOTES

(A) NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO ANALYSEE NON-TANK FIGURES

(E.G. BUDGETARY FIGURES) INCLUDED IN THE SOURCE DOCUMENTS.

(B) THE CAPABILITY OF WP INTELLIGENCE TO REFINE THE INFORMATION

USING OTHER SOURCES, HAS NOT BEEN ADDRESSED.

(C) FR, UK AND US AGREED FIGURES INCLUDE PERSONNEL IN BERLIN.

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